

SN. 10/603,582

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. CANO:076

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image forming job;

a container ~~capable of being~~ detachably attached to the image forming apparatus for receiving and storing the sheets of different image forming jobs;

a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to said container; and

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in said container to selectively inhibit ~~or allow~~ the storage of a next image forming job according to a priority level of ~~the~~ a previous image forming job.

2. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image forming job;

a container capable of being detachably attached to the image forming apparatus;

a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to said container; and

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in said container to selectively inhibit or allow the storage according to a priority level of the image forming job.

wherein said controller is operable when the priority level of an image forming job to be executed is lower than the priority level of another image forming job for sheets stored in said container, for inhibiting the storage of sheets for the image forming job to be executed in said container.

3. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 2, comprising:~~

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an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image forming job;

a container capable of being detachably attached to the image forming apparatus;

a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to said container; and

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in said container to selectively inhibit or allow the storage according to a priority level of the image forming job,

wherein said controller is operable when the priority level of an image forming job to be executed is lower than the priority level of another image forming job for sheets stored in said container, for inhibiting execution of the image forming job to be executed.

4. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image forming job;

a container capable of being detachably attached to the image forming apparatus;

a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to said container; and

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in said container to selectively inhibit or allow the storage according to a priority level of the image forming job,

wherein said controller is operable when the priority level of ~~the priority level~~ of an image forming job for sheets stored in said container is highest, for inhibiting storage of sheets in said container.

5. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image forming job;

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a container capable of being detachably attached to the image forming apparatus;
a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to
said container;

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in
said container to selectively inhibit or allow the storage according to a priority level of the image
forming job; and

an input device that inputs an image forming job and the priority level of the input image forming job.

6. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with an image
forming job;

a container capable of being detachably attached to the image forming apparatus;
a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to
said container;

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in
said container to selectively inhibit or allow the storage according to a priority level of the image
forming job; and

a setting device that sets the priority level of the image forming job.

7. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with ~~an image~~
forming jobs;

a discharge device that discharges the sheets of different image forming jobs on which
the images have been formed by said image forming device; and

a controller that controls said image forming device to selectively inhibit ~~or allow~~ image
formation of a next image forming job by said image forming device according to a priority level
of ~~the~~ a previous image forming job.

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8. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming device that forms images on sheets in accordance with image forming jobs;

a container detachably attached to the image forming apparatus for receiving and storing the sheets of different image forming jobs;

a conveying device that conveys the sheets on which the images have been formed to said container; and

a controller that controls storage of the sheets on which the images have been formed in said container to selectively inhibit the storage of a current image forming job according to a priority level of a most recent image forming job stored in the container.